Facilities for testing and standardization of consumer items

562. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facilities available for testing and standardization of consumer items in the country are adequately effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the steps being taken by Government to remedy the situation; and

(d) the number and details of complaints for violation of the norms for standard of consumer items received and disposed of during the last three years, alongwith the penalty imposed on the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is having a network of 8 laboratories at Sahibabad, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Mohali, Bangalore, Patna and Guwahati Supporting the operation of its Product Certification Scheme. All the BIS laboratories except at Patna and Guwahati are accredited by national Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) for various parameters. Where facilities in BIS laboratories are not available or are overloaded, services of about 120 BIS recognized outside laboratories are utilized by it for testing the samples bearing ISI mark under its product Certification Scheme. BIS has 14 Division Councils which are looking after specified areas of standardization.

(d) The number and details of complaints registered for violation of norms for standards of consumer items received and disposed during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Number of complaints registered	Number of complaints redressed
2004-05	130	66
2005-06	82	120
2006-07	73	109
2007-08 till 30/10/07	28	38

If the complaint is established, it is ensured that the manufactures of the product takes necessary corrective actions, failing which the licensee is liable for servere action against him as per established procedures of BIS. Regarding the complaints as registered during the last three years, 15 Licensees were put to stop marking.

Distribution of red wheat under PDS

563. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that red wheat had been provided under public distribution system in various States of the country during the last few months;

(b) if so, the details of the quantity of red wheat provided to States, State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it has been withdrawn due to consumers' disliking; and

(d) if so, the names of States which have returned this wheat and total quantity of red wheat that has been purchased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) While making allocation of wheat under TPDS, no distinction is made between the imported and indigenous wheat. Details of quantities of imported wheat, which also includes red wheat, received and distributed so far, State-wise, are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

Some of the State Governments have informed that the imported red wheat is not being preferred by the beneficiaries under the TPDS. The States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, have requested for allocating only indigenous or which wheat. However, no allocated red wheat has been withdrawn from State/UT Governments.

Statement

Details of State-wise allocation of imported wheat during 2006-07 and 2007-08 by Food Corporation of India.

(*Tentative fig. In MT-Approx.*)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Quantity Received	Quantity issued
1.	Maharashtra	1433278	1397626
2.	Gujarat	970504	824573
3.	Rajasthan	391346	391346
4.	Madhya Pradesh	1302136	1250230
5.	Chhattisgarh	39058	38329
6.	Jharkhand	50229	50229
7.	Bihar	62671	62671
8.	West Bengal	509216	509216
9.	NEF Zone	39245	39245
10.	Orissa	503364	50364
11.	Andhra Pradesh	93106	83251
12.	Karnataka	300159	300159
13.	Tamil Nadu	130383	130383
14.	Kerala	295873	294631
	TOTAL:	56,67,568	54,22,253

Rise in prices of essential commodities

564. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: